

September 25, 2007

Ms. Susan Haberstroh
Education Associate
Department of Education
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901

RE: 11 DE Reg. 250 [Immunization Regulation]

Dear Ms. Haberstroh:

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the Department of Education's (DOE) proposal to adopt a single amendment to its immunization standards covering the vaccine for Varicella (chickenpox) published as 11 DE Reg. 250 in the September 1, 2007 issue of the Register of Regulations. Council has the following observations.

The current regulation (last amended in June 2007) provides as follows:

Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year new enterers into the affected grades shall be required to have two doses of the Varicella vaccine.

The Department proposes to defer the effective date of the 2-dose requirement until the 2008-2009 school year since "(b)eginning in the 2007-2008 school year does not give districts and parents adequate notice." Since this deadline was only recently established by the amended regulation [10 DE Reg. 1808 (June 1, 2007)], this is ostensibly an accurate observation. Delaware is actually in the forefront in requiring two (2) doses of the vaccine. According to the CDC, most states required only one dose as of the 2005-2006 school year. The impetus behind requiring a second dose may be attributable to recent research. The CDC offers the following information:

In 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend routine two-dose varicella vaccination for children. In one study, children who received two doses of the chickenpox vaccine were three times less likely to get chickenpox than individuals who have had only one dose.

SCPD endorses the 2-dose standard and understands the 1-year deferral of implementation given the short notice available to parents.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our position or observations on the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: The Honorable Valerie Woodruff
Ms. Jean Allen
Ms. Martha Toomey
Ms. Paula Fontello, Esq.
Ms. Mary Cooke, Esq.
Ms Jennifer Kline, Esq.
Mr. Charlie Michaels
Developmental Disabilities Council
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